Statement

The Statement showing Bank Loans to Students of Engineering and Medical Education in Uttar Pradesh in Rural and Backward Areas during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97

(Amount : Rs. in lacs)

Name of the Bank	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	No.of A/cs	Amount Sanctioned	No. of A/cs	Amount Sanctioned	No. of A/cs	Amount Sanctioned
StateBank of India	4	2.87	2	3.5	8	4.08
Bank of India	—	—	—	—	12	3.75
Oriental Bank of Commerce	1	0.40	1	0.3	2	0.62
Bank of Baroda	5	3.25	7	7.5	6	5.50
Canara Bank	1	2.00	6	6.3	7	6.27
Syndicate Bank	15	3.34	1	1.0	11	1.92

[English]

Small Scale Industries

2797. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any requests from the Indian Council of Small Industries for holding discussions with the large number of representatives of small scale sector regarding Central Excise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had held a meeting with the representatives of various associations representing the small scale industries on 3.6.97 including the Indian Council of Small Scale Industries. In the said meeting, the Indian Council of Small Scale Industries had, inter-alia, suggested for increasing the duty exemption limit for small scale industries from Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs.100 lakhs in a year, providing higher value slabs for availment of concessional rate of duty both for units availing the MODVAT and units not availing MODVAT, option for availing MODVAT at any point of time during a year and setting up of a Committee to resolve the classification disputes.

(c) The government have carefully examined the various suggestions made by the Small Scale Industries associations. As the existing full duty exemption limit of Rs. 30 lakhs for the purpose of central excise duty is found to be adequate to take care of the genuine needs of the small scale industry as bulk of the small scale units have a turnover of less than Rs. 30 lakhs in a financial year, it was not found feasible to accede to the said suggestion. Regarding the request for allowing availment of MODVAT credit while paying concessional rate of excise duty, the Government have notified a revised scheme vide Notification No. 38/97-CE dated 27.6.97 In terms of the scheme, small scale units are eligible for a concessional rate of duty of 60% of the normal duty for clearances between Rs. 0-50 lakhs and a concessional rate of duty of 80% of the normal duty for clearances between Rs. 50-100 lakhs in a financial year while availing MODVAT credit of duty paid on thier inputs or capital goods. Clearances in excess of Rs.100 lakhs attract normal duty and a small scale unit can avail the aforesaid concession until he crosses a turnover limit of Rs.300 lakhs in a financial year. The scheme also provides for opting for the MODVAT scheme at any point of time during a financial year and once an option is exercised the same cannot be changed during the financial year. However, clearances made prior to the exercise of the option as aforesaid will be taken into account for determining the value limits for the concessional rates of excise duty.

As regards the suggestion for formation of a Committee to decide classification matters, it may be pointed out that classification of commidities under the Excise law is a quasi-judicial function with appellate remedies and therefore it may not be feasible to accept the suggestion made in this regard. In this context, it may also be mentioned that if the SSI unit do not wish to avail of MODVAT, then they have to pay concessional rate of duty upto Rs. 1 crore at same rate, irrespective of the nature of goods produced. To that extent, the classification problem does not arise.

Vidhi Melas

2798. SHRI A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hold country-wise "Vidhi Melas" for the disposal of long pending cases, as a part of speedy remedy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D.KHALAP): (a) No Sir. But, nevertheless, the Lok Adalats are being organised by the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards/State Legal Services Authorities in different parts of the country from time to time for disposal of pending cases which are capable of resolution by the Lok Adalats. The recent Law Ministers' Conference have decided to hold intensive Lok Adalats from 15th August, 1997 to 15th August, 1998.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

Procedure for Import of Goods

2799. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently simplified the procedure for import of goods to cut down on the delay in customs clearance of consignments; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Section 46(3) of the Customs Act, 1962 provides for filing and processing of Import General Manifest and the import documents before arrival of the vessel or the aircraft carrying the goods into the country. Vide Circular No.22/97 dated 4.7.1997 the Government have notified the detailed procedure for filing the documents by the importers in advance of arrival of the vessel or aricraft and its processing in the Custom Houses. The procedure inter-alia prescribes the method for submission of the documents, noting and assessment of the documents.

[Translation]

Textile Design Exhibition

2800. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Textile Design Exhibition has been organised in Delhi during last 3 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof location-wise;

(c) the details of export orders received through such exhibitions country-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to organise more such exhibitions in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No Textile Design exhibition as such was organised during the last 3 years. However, 12 design-cum-sale exhibitions under National Design Collection Programme were organised i.e. Lajpat Nagar (3), Lodhi Hotel (2), Wazirpur Industrial Area, Pritampura, South Extension, Khan Market, Rani Bagh, Krishna Nagar and Pragati Maidan. In addition to this, 4 dyeing and design exhibitions in the handloom cluster areas were organised by the Weavers Service Centre, Delhi to propagate modern dyeing designing and make available designs at the doorstep of weavers i.e. 2 at Weavers Service Centre, Bharat Nagar and one each at Sawan Park and Nand Nagri.

(c) No export order received for the items exhibited in these exhibitions.

(d) and (e) 2 Dyeing and design exhibitions are proposed to be organised by Weavers Service Centre, Delhi i.e. one each at Weavers Service Centre, Bharat Nagar and Sawan Park for the benefit of Weavers.

[English]

Investment in Core Sector

2801. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether as per the recent estimate, the country needs an investment of Rs. 1.80,000 crore in the core sector of the country;

(b) if so, break-up of the sectors and investment required; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to manage such huge farms for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The detailed investment requirements for the core and infrastructure sector of the country is presently being worked out and will be presented in the Ninth Five Year Plan Document.

To Improve Customer Services

2802. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the customer services in the nationalised banks;

(b) whether Government have appointed any Commission to suggest ways to improve the customer services in the banks; and

(c) if so, whether the Government have accepted any of the recommendation of the Committee/commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) It has been the constant endeavour of Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and individual banks to improve customer service.